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NEW YORK'S MILK STRIKE

The milk strike in New York is progressing along precisely the lines of that which a few weeks ago gripped Chicago. The producers in the Chicago district organized thoroughly into local associations, which were affiliated in a central organization. This organization opened a business office in the city, in charge of a manager who kept thoroughly in touch with all developments in the business. The producers' associations studied conditions, decided what should be a fair price, demanded it, and were refused.

Then they struck, and the dealers began making advances. They bid up and up, until they had offered the price that the farmers wanted. But they proposed only to make contracts by the month; the dairymen wanted six months' contracts; and by sticking to this last condition they ultimately got both the price and the contract they demanded.

In New York the largest single distributing concern has offered to give the Dairymen's League the price asked; but it declines to give the six months' contract, insisting on the privilege of buying from month to month. The producers, calculating that they have the upper hand, are determined to stand firm and get the full concession, as did their brethren in Chicago. Present indications are that the city dealers will finally have to make the concession, and that it will be made within a very few days.

AS TO COURTSHIP VIA THE GASOLINE ROUTE

How many times have the oldsters been heard to sigh, in these days of automobile affluence and motor car matches, that they wished their own courtship might have been done in a generation when the benzine buggy was available as a first aid to matrimony! To the elders, recollecting the difficulties that attended the effort to get Her away from the family circle and into a reasonably confidential corner of twilight, the motor car looks like the most usable of all possible promoters of love-making opportunity.

Wherefore it comes as a shock that the girls of Smith Center, Kans.—of course, it would have to be Kansas!—have organized a Cupid's Association that puts a ban on automobiles. The young men have their hands and arms too busy with levers and gears and brakes; likewise their conversation is unduly occupied with speed limits and gas consumption, and the wicked trust that has hoisted the price, and tire trouble. Spark plugs are found less interesting than old-fashioned sparking.

The Cupid's Association maidens are opposed to the automobile, it would appear, because it somehow doesn't conduce to "bringing him to the point." Perhaps there's something in it. Approaching a dangerous point, the young man puts on chains; and after that he hasn't much chance to skid into reckless avowals. The young man suspected of serious intentions will be given more consideration if he will come with the good, old-time horse and buggy.

Somewhat we misdo this analysis of the automobile's influence on the course of true love. Possibly out at Smith Center, where every family owns two or three autos and folks are frightfully biased on the subject, the young man with a motor car is handicapped; but in hereabouts latitudes he is doing quite well. If there is cause to complain of the motor car as an adjunct to courtship, it is on the ground of the difficulty keeping the company down to the number that traditionally constitutes company rather than a crowd.

CAPT. STEEVER AND THE CADETS

Washington's High School Cadets are fortunate in having assigned to duty with them this year Capt. E. Z. Steever, now stationed on the Mexican border.

Captain Steever's work with the cadets here while he was at the Army War College last year was voluntary. During that year he gave an impetus to the high school military organization movement, which already is being reflected in other cities. The national defense act provides for assignments of army officers to such organizations in a capacity similar to that for which Captain Steever now is assigned to Washington.

The Washington High School Cadet Regiment is one of the oldest organizations of its kind, and it has been studied within the past year by

school officials of other cities. It has served as a pattern for similar organizations elsewhere. Last year its work was considerably broadened by the innovations introduced by Captain Steever, to replace the monotony of the old close order drill. No part of his work was more valuable, perhaps, than that of the officers' training school, and the studies of the war maps by the cadet officers formed a training as valuable, if not more so, than could be had in any regular classes.

With Captain Steever officially assigned here this year, working in co-operation with the school officials, the development of the cadet drills is assured a further advance.

A PEACE PROPOSAL FROM GERMANY?

The internal conditions of the central empires, quite as much as the military situation, must be considered in any effort to appraise reports that they are seeking to have the United States initiate a peace effort. It is doubtless true that the war is causing, at this time, a more severe pressure on the Teutonic than on the entente nations. But there is no reason to doubt that the former are able to continue fighting indefinitely. They are not approaching the point of exhaustion. They are not so near it as Japan was when the United States mediated in the Russo-Japanese war. They would not reach that point, probably, for another year and a half, even if the war should go more fortunately for them than now seems probable.

But there is another side to the situation. The central empires are doubtless able to fight on for many months, perhaps years. Their chance to win, however, is past. They are not going to take Paris, crush France, wreck Russia, destroy Britain, or make themselves the rulers of the world. The other nations of Europe have ceased to dread the German war machine. Germany will not in future, whatever the outcome of this war, be able to rattle the saber and strike terror to chancelleries. No matter what the peace terms may be in detail, or whether they shall be made soon or late, Germany as the overshadowing figure on the European continent, casting a grim shadow of menace and fear on every land, will be no more.

The rulers of Germany know this. They know that their half-century of preparation for this conflict has been matched and equaled by their opponents in two years. The tiger's leap failed of its prey. They can take their choice between early peace without complete defeat and later peace with utter disaster.

Provided, their enemies must decide, finally, whether the privilege of peace shall be extended when Germany chooses to indicate willingness. All the entente powers have protested, in the most earnest terms, that they will have none of a peace that fails to insure the future against further German aggression. Their terms are rather vague; but they have most positively indicated that they would, at this time, regard as unfriendly any offer of mediation by a neutral. It is impossible to believe that the United States, Spain, or any other nation would at this time ignore that warning.

Yet the signs that Germany might now be hoping to induce mediation, are very apparent. There is beginning of political dissension in the empire. Counsels of desperation are listened to by the masses of people with more and more willingness. It is possible that German enterprise is responsible for stories of peace discussion between Germany and Russia, looking to a separate and immediate peace. Putting out such stories would not mislead the governments of France, Britain, and Italy. They might give fright to the people of those countries; especially might they inspire fear in Roumania, and restrain the hand of the radicals in Greece. There will be a good deal of this kind of preliminary jockeying before a peace move is definitely inaugurated; and it may be considered very certain that the United States, at least, will lead in no such effort until it is very sure that both sides are ready to entertain proposals.

Actions of the great bourses, and the fluctuations of international exchange, are commonly the barometers which give earliest sign of approaching developments in these big international affairs. Our own markets have recently reflected a suspicion that some peace move may be in the air. But the bear side of the market in "war bonds" is accused of responsibility; and a consideration of all the factors in the war leads to the opinion that it is hardly possible Germany is yet putting out a definite feeler; far less possible that the Washington Government would act even if it were put out.

THE SUBURBAN BEAUTY CONTESTS

A growing phase of community team work in the suburbs around Washington is indicated this fall by the numerous flower shows, lawn and garden competitions.

The first obvious appeal of such a movement is to the artistic sense.

Like most other developments of the artistic it has a deep economic effect. It has served to cause suburban residents to take pride in their lawns and gardens and grounds. It makes the suburbs better places to look at, and the value of property is enhanced as a result.

Brookland, Langdon, Takoma Park, Hyattsville, and half a dozen other suburbs have staged flower shows or have had lawn and garden competitions. Residents of those communities were stimulated thereby to improving their premises. In most cases the flowers were grown in the yards, and the exhibit they formed all summer was even more valuable than the shows for which they were collected and viewed for prizes.

Such movements, in combination with the clean-up and paint-up weeks, serve to make for a city beautiful in the best sort of fashion, by inducing every resident to take a part in the effort.

FARM MORTGAGE LOANS AT 4-1/2 PER CENT

A very real step toward reduction of the cost of food products will have been taken, if the Federal farm loan act shall actually make it possible to provide money to farmers at 4 1/2 per cent per annum. That is the present ideal of the board in charge of the law's administration; and its hope of being able to make the rate this low is based on the very substantial fact that bankers have offered to take millions of dollars in the bonds at 4 per cent.

It is required by the law that the margin between the rate on the bonds and the rate paid by the borrower shall not exceed 1 per cent. That 1 per cent must pay the expenses of running the business. The question, then, is simply whether a 4 per cent bond of this character can be placed at par, and whether the expenses of doing the business can be kept within 1 per cent. If it can, the cost of his loan will be 5 per cent to the farmer.

The board hopes to keep expenses within 1/2 of 1 per cent; which would make the farmer's cost only 4 1/2 per cent. This rate, on a loan that amortizes itself automatically, would mean the opening of a new era in agricultural finance.

It must be regarded as at least very doubtful whether a rate under 5 per cent will be possible permanently. At present the country is full of money, much of it seeking investment. But many millions are being loaned in Europe at higher rates than the proposed rate on the farm bonds. There is at least an element of speculation as to the expense of doing the business of the farm loan board. If it had a monopoly of all the loaning business of all the farmers in the country, it might conceivably handle that business on a margin of 1/2 of 1 per cent. But it will not have that monopoly, even in theory, for many years; in fact, it will never have it.

One very useful effect of this bank's operations will be to bring the farm loaning business nearer a basis of uniformity than it has ever been. There is a variation in the rates on farm loans, wider than on anything else. Railroads with sound credit get money at pretty uniform rates, no matter in what section. Farmers, borrowing up to 50 per cent of the carefully appraised value of their property, should be able to get money at about as uniform a rate, no matter in what section. It is not a question of the value per acre of the land offered, any more than, in selling railroad bonds, it is a question whether the road be single-tracked or four-tracked. The real question, in either case, is whether the property is ample security for the loan asked.

THE SERIES AND THE "DOPE"

Somewhat the dope, which is always based on analysis and logic, is liable to upset in world series experience. The most illogical thing about baseball is the results; and its illogical character is a good share of what makes it so fascinating.

Boston, we are assured by the authorities, ought to run away with it. Very well; the team that ought to do that has so frequently failed that among the gentry who place their good money on results there is impressive indisposition to accept anybody's dope. Betting on the results of a world series is about as sound an investment as betting on the turn of a copper while it is in the air. Who has forgotten how the Braves romped away with a perfectly good pennant while the discomfited forecasters were reorganizing their mixture with a new supply of ifs?

SONS OF ST. GEORGE IN FINAL SESSION

Reports of the supreme president and supreme secretary and nomination of officers for the next triennial convention of the Sons of St. George, held the attention of the national convention during its final session yesterday.

Changes in the secret work were adopted with a new ritual. The matter of appointing organizers for new chapters was touched on by the president's report. C. C. Meunier is the outgoing president.

Smoker, given the delegates by Columbia Lodge, was held last night at the rooms of the local chapter, 822 Twentieth street.

With Due Credit

Just a Hint.
I have solved the cost of living. I'll explain and you'll agree that the things I've done, though I've given up the price, are original with me.

We were quite a happy family. When they raised the price of beans. We drew lots to whom I'd strangle. And the luck was Josephine's. Who can stem the tide of prices? Soon there came a boom in beef. Willie sleeps upon the hillside. His career on earth was brief.

Underneath the terra firma. In a nice secluded bower. I planted fair-haired Marion. When they raised the price of flour. All remains to me is wifery— Soon her soul must speed away. For I note the price of eatings Soaring skyward day by day.

Count that day lost whose slow-ly rising sun Sees not a Zeppelin put on the bum. —London (Ont.) Advertiser.

The Thoughts of Hermione, the Modern Young Woman.
Have you read Algernon Blackwood's lovely new book? Really it's wonderful! I am positively certain that I can remember my Prehistoric Existence! Fothergill, I say he can remember his, and that I was all mixed up in them. Fanciful!

"I was a Cave Man," says Fothergill, "and we wandered barefoot in the dew at dawn together!"
I wish Mamma had not heard him say that. It is so terribly conservative and old-fashioned. You know, "Mr. Finch," she said, "don't you think that is an extremely intimate sort of thing to permit yourself to remember? I trust that you do not retain any of your Cave Man habits, are you? Man, whom I know, to be such, shall ever cross this threshold with my consent!"

"Mamma," I told her, "you are making yourself absolutely ridiculous! It is the right of every modern young woman to choose her mate instead of being chosen! And if a Cave Man should call upon me I would insist on him being received by my family. Or a Superman, either! Thank heaven, I at least have Economic Independence!"
And I have, too, in a way. That is, I can always get anything from Papa. I ask him for—

"Mamma," I said, "if you or I, one or the other, does not leave this room, my Pole for the entire day will be destroyed! Harmony in the Environment is essential to me. And you know I must vibrate in accord with the Great Serenity. We have a plan, don't you? Mr. Finch and me to finish our discussion!"

We went; but she snuffed.

I have to be very firm with Mamma sometimes. But it is for her own good. I can't permit her to form bad mental habits. I love her too dearly for that. I reverence her too much.

Oh, Reverence for One's Mother! What is there to commend with it? Nearly every night before I go to bed I ask myself: "Have I been Reverent today? Or have I failed?"—Don Marquis, in New York Evening Sun.

We're surprised that we haven't read that the "tank" could rear onto their hind legs and climb right up in the atmosphere—Hawes Hill—Chicago Evening Post.

Wonder If Arthur Was Surprised.

The engagement of Miss Margaret Roscoe, daughter of Mr. B. Roscoe, of this city, has been announced to Arthur Croton—Evanston (Ill.) News.

Ike Sets Himself Right Before the Public

Ike Strode saw the item in last week's News about his getting a wife only six weeks after his first wife was buried, and he came over to Hawks Hill to see the writer. He was very mad, and said he would break every bone in the correspondent's body unless a correction was made in the next News. The fact is, he said, that he was married just seven weeks and two days after the death of Mrs. Strode No. 1, and not six weeks after—Hawes Hill Correspondence to Minerva (O.) News.

From the Dry Country.

This autumn air is like champagne. And quite intoxicating. I went away in copious drafts—The most exhilarating. And yet I'll have to cut it out. And stop my head—good darn it. You see I can't use champagne. Without a liquor permit. —Spokane Spokesman Review.



American Dead: "You Didn't Keep Us Out of War."

SUMMONS BAKERS TO EXPLAIN PRICES

New York District Attorney Will Quiz Ninety at Meeting Next Tuesday.

NEW YORK, Oct. 7.—Prosecutors were sent out from the district attorney's office yesterday to serve ninety men engaged in the baking industry in New York city, all of whom are summoned to meet the district attorney next Tuesday to explain why the rise in the price of bread is justified.

Some of the questions that Assistant District Attorney Morris Eder will ask them will be based on a cost memorandum which has just been furnished him by a baker who has been in business for nearly half a century, and who asserts that at the increased price of the bakers are making profits of about 100 per cent.

This table is based not on what a baker would have to pay now for flour, but on the price that was paid when most of them bought the flour which they are now using. The list of ingredients for 100 pounds of bread is furnished to the assistant district attorney as follows:

What Bread Costs Baker.
One barrel flour.....\$6.50
Salt......30
Sugar......30
Yeast......30
Fat......40
Milk......40
Total.....\$9.90

To this must be added about 25 per cent for overhead charges, making a total of about \$10. At 6 cents each loaf, the baker's profit is \$2.50. The retail merchant, Mr. Eder says, usually gets a profit of 14 cents a loaf, leaving a profit to the manufacturer of over 2 cents a loaf.

In an affidavit the baker, whose name was not disclosed, asserted that the cheapest grade of cottonseed oil was used; and that in some of the smaller shops shortening made from scraps of horses and diseased cattle was purchased.

Fat From Diseased Cattle.

"I was amazed at the man's statement," said Mr. Eder. "He told me that the cheapest grade of cottonseed oil was used; and that in some of the smaller shops shortening made from scraps of horses and diseased cattle was purchased."

He also asserted that there was a mill in the lower part of the city where flour that had been damaged by water was milled with good flour and then sold. This mill, he asserted, was controlled by one of the large flour companies in the West and many baking companies purchased from it at one time or another.

"He said that a large load of flour recently sunk in the Hudson was afterward taken to the mill, where it was mixed with good flour and placed on the market. It was purchased, he asserted, by bakers who catered to a discriminating trade."

Mr. Eder announced that he expected to have enough evidence by Tuesday night to go before the grand jury in an effort to indict several bakers who are alleged to have formed a combination to raise the price of bread.

Sodality of Blessed Virgin at Communion

Tomorrow will be regular communion Sunday for members of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin, who will receive at the 8 o'clock mass at St. Patrick's Church. The Rev. James A. Smyth will be celebrant.

The 11 o'clock mass will be a solemn high mass sung by the Rev. J. M. McNamee. Two choirs will assist with the music and at the end of devotions the congregation will join in singing of the hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Praise Thy Name." Father Smyth will deliver the sermon.

The Rt. Rev. Mr. Russell will officiate at services in the evening at 7:30 o'clock, when the members of the League of the Good Shepherd will assemble for the weekly recitation of their office. A sermon will follow and services conclude with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

DARTMOUTH ALUMNI HAVE BIG REUNION

Songs, Oratory, and Cheers Feature Celebration at the University Club.

Cheering with the spirit of their college days, singing songs and making speeches, the Dartmouth College Alumni Association met in a reunion last night at the University Club.

"Dartmouth Day," the first Friday in October, was the occasion for the gathering. The celebration last night was especially interesting because of the installation at the college of the new president, Ernest Martin Hopkins, '11, who succeeds Dr. E. F. Nichols.

The officers of the Washington Alumni Association are: President, Henry M. Fall; vice presidents, Charles M. Prouty, F. A. Walker, Henry P. Blair; secretary and treasurer, William J. Wallis; chorister, James W. Cheney; historian, David M. Hildreth; executive committee, George H. Moore, chairman, and A. A. Fisher, Maurice H. Avery, Carl H. Butman, Henry H. Semmes.

Members of the local association follow:

Samuel R. Bond, Francis H. Goodall, James F. Allen, I. Goodwin Hobbs, Daniel C. L. Pearson, Asa B. Cook, Prof. George J. Cummings, James W. Cheney, Richard Rev. Ethelbert Talbot, Frank S. Whitcomb, John F. Pratt, Gen. F. C. Alsworth, Henry M. Paul, Capt. Otto A. Nesmith, Charles A. Prouty, Lucian S. Tilton, George Henry Child, William W. Prescott, Winfield S. Field, Dr. Henry C. Pillsbury, John Walker, Maurice H. Avery, Stanwood Cobb, Harold D. King, O. A. Mechin, Campbell Paul, Charles A. Webb, Edward H. Egbert, F. H. Hardy, William D. McKean, Arthur J. Elna, Hope R. Messer, Crawford M. Bishop, Thurston M. Gordon, Clarence E. Ellsworth, R. Hayes, Herman H. Hill, Walter M. Leighton, Robert L. Lyon, Albert P. Tibbitts, Harold L. Smith, Carl H. Butman, M. B. Griffin, William Era Lamb, Arthur P. McLane, L. E. Sawyer, Alexander C. Robinson, Harry H. Semmes, F. S. Tilton, J. Herbert Babcock, E. Taylor Pappas, Alfred R. Taylor, Paul E. Dailey, E. C. Sanborn, and Francis W. Stone, Jr.

Grotto Plans Campaign For Larger Membership

Kallipolis Grotto, No. 15, will start a campaign for increased membership this fall, looking to a total of 2,000 members when the Supreme Council convenes in Washington next summer.

The first step will be a Full Ritualistic Ceremony at Odd Fellows' Hall on the evening of October 9. It will be a "get-together" affair, with refreshments. A full attendance is expected.

Enjoins From Building.

Suit to enjoin John L. Barr from constructing a building on her property at 1866 Wyoming avenue northwest, has been filed in the District Supreme Court by Harriet Richardson Searle. The allegation is made that the proposed building to be erected by the defendant will encroach on the plaintiff's property. Attorneys Mason N. Richardson and Charles S. Shreve filed the petition.

AQUEDUCT BRIDGE REPAIRS FINISHED

Meanwhile Colonel Flagler Is Working on Plans for New Key Span.

Col. C. A. Flagler, engineer officer in charge of the Washington district, has reported to the War Department the completion of repairs designed to make the Aqueduct bridge safe for traffic during the winter. Meanwhile Colonel Flagler is working on plans for the new Key bridge, which is to replace the Aqueduct bridge.

Concrete in burlap sacks was placed by submarine divers to patch up broken joints in the piers of Aqueduct bridge. A jacket or wall of these sacks was built up to protect the concrete from further disintegration or erosion caused by ice or debris.

In Best Possible Repair.

"It is now believed," Colonel Flagler reported, "that the pier is in as good condition as it is possible to make them by this method of repair."

Reporting specifically on the condition of several of the piers, Colonel Flagler shows that serious disintegration had set in before the repairs were made.

Pier No. 2 on the north side was found to have been seriously damaged by vibration. Fully 25 per cent of the joints on the ice breaker were found open to a depth of two to three feet. The concrete protecting wall was undermined for a distance of twelve feet. The protecting wall of pier No. 2 on the south side also was undermined.

A crevice extending from one to two feet into the abutment was found in the Georgetown pier. One open joint four feet wide was found in this pier.

Masonry Torn Away.

On pier No. 3 on the north side the step-off, a course of masonry seven feet below the surface and projecting from two to three feet beyond the face of the pier had been torn away, leaving holes in several places. A ten-foot open joint was found four feet below the water surface. From the mud up for seven feet and from the down stream end for ten feet the joints were all open and several extended three or four feet into the pier.

A large stone, two feet below the step-off and two feet from the nose of Pier 3 on the south side was about to fall. A hole five or six feet into the pier was found in the south side. Other piers were found in similar condition, and all were patched by the burlap bag method.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN WASHINGTON TODAY

Today.
Meeting, Society for Philosophical Inquiry, Public Library, 4:45 p. m.
Meeting, Union Soldiers Alliance, New Exhibit, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Federation of Citizens' Associations, board room, District Building, 8 p. m.
Parlarchs Militant, Odd Fellows-Canton, Washington, No. 1.
Southern River-Albert Pike Consistory, thirty-second degree.

Amusements.
New National "Lighthouse," 2:15, and "The Jewels of the Madonna," 8:15 p. m.
Belasco—"The Cinderella Man," 2:15 and 8:20 p. m.
B. F. Keith's-Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Follies—"Bringing Up Father in Politics," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Gayety-Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Loew's-Columbia-Photoplay, 10:30 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Garden-Photoplay, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Bland-Photoplay, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Casino-Photoplay, 12 m. to 11 p. m.

Tomorrow.
Meeting, Hero Club, Boys' Department Y. M. C. A., 1:15 p. m.
Meeting, Washington Secular League, Pythian Temple, 2 p. m.
Field meeting, Aquarian Society of Washington, Shaw's room, Kenilworth, 2 p. m.
Dedication, monument to T. H. Beavers, Rock Creek Cemetery, 2 p. m.
Meeting, Oriental Exotic Society, 1448 Q street northwest, 8:15 p. m.
Meeting, Cardinal Pleasure Club, 419 Pennsylvania avenue.
Meeting, Knights of Sir Godfrey, Y. M. C. A. building, 1:30 p. m.